



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

JAMES S. REINHARD, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Telephone (804) 786-3921
Voice/TDD (804) 371-8977
www.dmhmrzas.state.va.us

April 24, 2002

**Contact: Martha Mead
804-786-9048**

Raymond R. Ratke named Deputy Commissioner

Richmond—Commissioner James S. Reinhard, M.D., announced the appointment of Raymond R. Ratke as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. “Ray Ratke offers the Department and the Executive Branch an essential community perspective in the planning and management of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services. He has been instrumental in key leadership positions with the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB) statewide, and will be an asset to the Commonwealth in continuing to steer the system toward a community focus,” said the Commissioner. Mary Ann Bergeron Executive Director of the VACSB said, “Ray brings with him a vision of quality services focused on consumers and their needs. He has been a tremendous leader in resolving very difficult issues within the state and community services system, as well as in working toward consensus with the Executive and Legislative branches of state government on Mental Retardation Waiver management, mental health acute care diversion projects, and community diversion for consumers with addiction problems.”

As Executive Director of the Hanover Community Services Board since 1994, Ratke managed and directed a comprehensive, community based system of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services. Among his accomplishments are: the initiation, design, development, implementation and management of high quality, responsive services including intensive community treatment services for adults with serious mental illness, intensive outpatient treatment for substance abusing adolescents, a crisis intervention and law enforcement ride along program pairing counselors with police and sheriffs; a mental retardation in-home support program that worked across local government boundaries; and two financially successful entrepreneurial businesses employing persons with disabilities. Ratke also was successful in working with the Hanover County Board of Supervisors in garnering support and local funding for community programs. He initiated a 5 year planning process in collaboration with local government to establish service standards and a process for expanding services capacity to meet the standards. The Hanover Community Services Board has consistently received high marks on client/consumer satisfaction surveys.

Ratke served as Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at the Hanover Community Services Board from November, 1986, to July, 1994, when he became Executive Director. Prior to that he worked with the Northwestern Community Services Board in Winchester, Virginia. He was promoted from mental health clinician to Clinical Supervisor, Director of Mental Retardation Services, and ultimately to Director of Clinical Services.

Ratke has a Master of Arts Degree in Psychology from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Carthage College in Wisconsin.